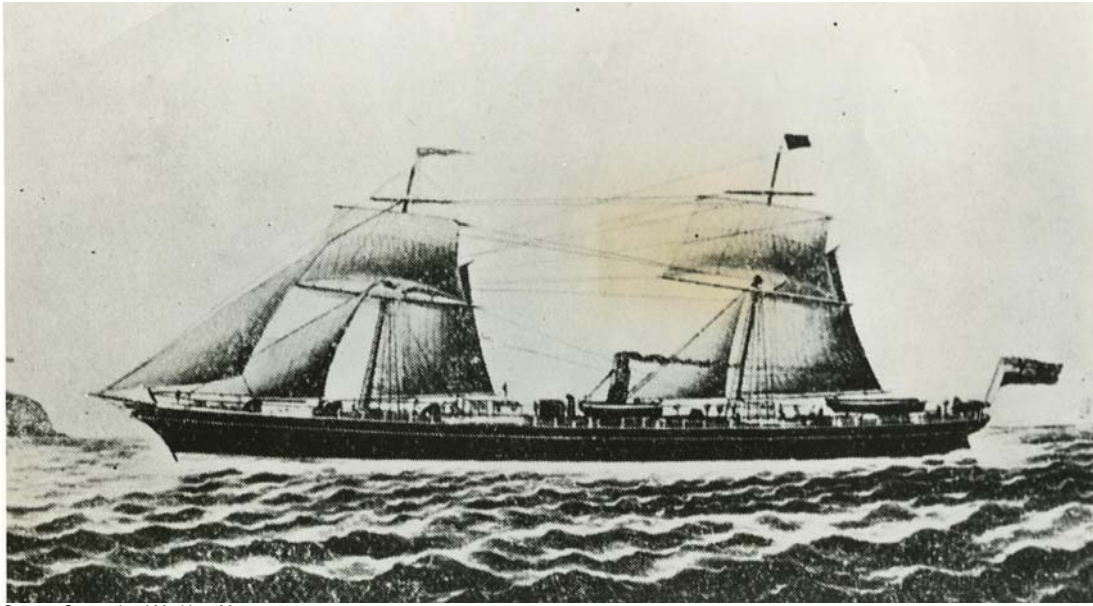


“Somerset”



Source: Queensland Maritime Museum

Quarantined 27 February 1879 for Small Pox

Virulent smallpox broke out on the steamship “Somerset” lately arrived from Singapore. The ship, all crew and passengers, “together with all persons now on board”, were originally placed in quarantine at the “Four Fathom Hole”.

It was not uncommon for crew and passengers to originally be quarantined on their ships. These circumstances could change such as when the period of detainment went on for too long. Individuals could be quarantined on Peel Island separate from the ship if they actually became ill with a possibly infectious disease.

There were also times, such as in summer, when Peel Island became too crowded, with a number of ships in quarantine. In such cases there was no alternative but to keep people on their ships though the conditions were cramped.

In 1879 the ‘Clara’, “Fritz Reuter”, and “Normanby” were all in quarantine on Peel Island before the Somerset arrived perhaps forcing her quarantine at the Four Fathom Hole. .